

new record office is to be built at Aberdeen, at an estimated cost of 4,000l. — Guiseley parish church has been repaired and partly rebuilt. The reading-desk has been made to turn on a pivot. — The *Liverpool Times*, in allusion to a fear expressed by Baron Alderson, that the Courts in St. George's Hall would not be ready for several years, expresses an assurance that there will be no difficulty in completing them for the next spring assizes. The only difficulty, it remarks, is with respect to the approaches. — The exterior of St. Peter's Church, Liverpool, has been repaired, under direction of Mr. Picton, architect, by Mr. Sanders, stonemason. — The small church of Thurlston has been altered, by taking down the screen and removing the singing gallery back into the tower. — A correspondent of the *Hereford Times*, in drawing attention to what might be done for the improvement of that city, enumerates, 1st. The completion of the cathedral. 2nd. The formation of a cattle market. 3rd. The lighting of the suburbs with gas. 4th. The improvement of entrance from Wales at Bigu-square, by removal of two projecting dwellings at Bowsey-lane. 5th. The abolition of the dangerous turnpike-gate at Wyebridge, and formation of a double gate with toll-house in the angle of the Ross and Abergenny roads. 6th. The restoration of those abominable old almshouses in Widemarsh-street without. — The new church, in George-street, Oxford, intended as a chapel of ease to the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, was consecrated by the bishop on Saturday last. It is built of Gibraltar stone, with Painewick stone mullions and facings, and consists of one centre and two side aisles, with a chancel and vestry on the east side. The style is Decorated Gothic, with slated roof, and nave and aisles divided by pillared arches. The cost is stated by a correspondent at 2,500l. although we find it remarked in an Oxford paper that the estimated cost is stated in the subscription-list at 4,450l. The building was erected by Mr. G. Wyatt, of Oxford, builder, from designs by Mr. J. P. Harrison, architect. The number of sittings, free, is 450. All the seats are low and open. The nave, aisles, and chancel are laid with tiles, and within the altar-rail and baptistery with Minton's encaustic. Messrs. Minton presented 40l. worth of tile to adorn the walls. The west wall displays the Royal Arms, with those of the bishop and the vicar on either side. The chancel fittings, pulpit, &c. are of waistcoat carved. The roof is of stained wood. The plastering of the walls is of a reddish colour, warmth of tint being given by a mixture of sands. The windows are filled with stained glass by Wailes, Warrington, and Hardman, and are chiefly gifts. Exteriorly the south front parallel with the street is surmounted by a pierced ornamental parapet presented by the architect. — New schools for the accommodation of 150 boys, 150 girls, and 120 infants are about to be erected at Hythe, from the design of Mr. J. Messenger. They are Tudor in style, to be built of the local stone, the gift of — Deedes, Esq., M.P., with freestone dressings. They will have open timber roofs. A new church has lately been consecrated here. It is from the design of Mr. Sidney Smith. It is of the early decorated period, and consists of nave, north aisle, chancel, robing-room, and a double bell-cot over the western gable. It is built of rag with Caen-stone dressings. — For the construction of a sewer in Sidney-street, Cambridge, 44 yards long, 12 inches diameter, and 10 feet 9 in. deep, tenders were lodged by Joseph Coulson, who proposed to execute the sewer at 10s. 6d. per yard (lineal), lateral drains at 3s. 6d., and junctions (6 in.), 2s. 6d. each; by John Bennett, sewer, 9s. 9d., lateral drains, 2s. 10d.; and by James Stevens, sewer, 10s. 9d., lateral drains, 4s. 3d. Bennett's tender was accepted. — The *Leicester Times* states that in consequence of the dearth and badness of the gas at Lincoln, there are great complaints amongst the consumers, who wish to start a new company, and that one large firm is erecting private works with the assurance of having far superior gas for less than 3s. a thousand cubic feet. The mains of the company, it is said, are too small to supply the town satisfactorily under present circumstances. — Sir Richard Simeon has offered to make a free gift of the

shore ground necessary for the new pier and baths at Ryde. The ground-rent of the old pier is upwards of 40l. a-year. — The Fareham Gas Company, says a Hampshire contemporary, have not found the reduction in the price of gas, to which they were reluctantly driven, so serious an affair as they anticipated; but, on the contrary, the extra consumption of their light commodity has enabled them to offer considerable additions to the illumination of the town without any extra charge at all, and for this purpose fresh mains are being laid in some of the thoroughfares. An enlargement of the manufacturing machinery is also already requisite, and is about to be made. — The gas consumers of Evesham are formally intimating to their gas company that 11s. a thousand feet (!) is more than neighbouring towns are paying, and that the price must be reduced to 8s. 6d., otherwise they must relinquish the use of gas altogether. The only wonder is, perhaps, that this is still to do, or rather, that they have not already taken their own enlightenment into their own hands. — The northern staircase and a portion of the gallery of Stoke Church, Devonport, were destroyed by fire on Monday in week before last. — Mr. Neeld, M.P. for Chippenham, has presented to his constituents a market house and public hall, erected at a cost of 12,000l. — More notes on gas: our provincial authorities appear to be busier in trimming their lamps these dark nights, than in setting their churches, &c. in order: doubtless, they fear that in the dark the Pope may slip in. We earnestly hope, however, that his Holiness will not now be allowed to steal all our church decoration from us as he did before, leaving little else than mere bare walls and whitewash as good enough for Protestant worship. Seriously, we should not be surprised to find some now again indiscriminately attempting to check the endeavour, of late, to render Protestant places of worship worthy of the name, as a reflex and exponent of the honour and glory felt to be due to Him whose palatial dwellings they ought, even outwardly, and to the best of poor human ability and grandeur, to show themselves, in the eyes of men, to be. It was a false step, as well as a gross absurdity, to give up such a reflex of the honour and glory due to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, whose "glory" even the starry firmament above and the flowery earth beneath display, in outward show, to mortal eyes, — and that too for no real reason but because Popes and Papists had the reverence, ay, and the good taste too, to encourage the display of decorative art in ecclesiastical architecture. But "more notes on gas" is a text for other discourses than this. Our few remaining notes this week relate to gas alone, and are of comparatively minor import. — The movement at Leeds for the establishment of corporation gas works, is leading to a like movement at Sheffield, where, as we lately said, much discontent exists as to present supplies, and many firms are preparing for separate gas establishments. In moving for a committee which has been appointed by the council, to inquire into the propriety of applying to Parliament for power to erect corporation gas works, Alderman Scholfield stated that he had before him the returns of a private establishment, in which, exclusive of original cost of apparatus, 51,064 feet of gas cost 1s. 5d. a thousand feet, deducting from which the value of the coke, the net cost left was 10½d. per thousand. The quality of the gas at Sheffield is more complained of than the price, which is stated at 5s. 5d. as the highest charge, in fact the main charge, and 3s. 11½d. as the lowest, though as to this latter, on which those interested mainly dwell, it is only necessary to stipulate for a quantity sufficiently large as the *sine qua non* of a price which might have been pitched at any figure, however small, as the extremely low, but altogether nominal minimum of the actual price. The charge to ordinary consumers is the only fair criterion. A Sheffield contemporary, in allusion to the present state of things, says, he "cannot at present understand that gas can be produced at a hundred separate establishments cheaper than at one central manufactory, possessing all the advantages which ample resources and the best of engineering talent can impart." Now, there cannot, as we have before remarked, be a question as to the fact that one such central manufactory can produce gas for a hundred establishments cheaper than such establish-

ments can do themselves: but do they supply it, accordingly, even as cheaply — not to say cheaper? The very fact that separate establishments do make their own gas, and that others are finding it to their advantage to follow such an example, notwithstanding that one central company can produce it for all so much more cheaply, and could sell it to all at least as cheaply as all can separately produce it — but don't, — is what so many justly complain of, the more so that it has been so often proved by compulsory experience on the part of gas companies, that when they do, the result is that it invariably increases their own dividends and enhances their own general interests, as well as those of their customers. Be it noted, however, that we have never argued for any one straight-laced system of prices to be made exactly to fit all circumstances: that would be absurd: we have only started and defended the broad principle that, in general, gas was far too dear, and that it would be greatly to the advantage of all manufacturers no less than consumers and would-be consumers, were the general run of prices greatly reduced. And we have not only defended this principle, but established the truth of it, by compelling many companies, through the force of an induced public opinion, to undergo the experiment of successive and sweeping reductions, which, to their own astonishment, have uniformly proved admittedly successful, in their own greatly-improved position and prospects. These experiments are in full force of progress, and almost all we have now to do in the matter is to record the results, as we are ever doing, generally in the words of the directors themselves, or of our contemporaries of the newspaper press. — The price of gas in Keswick, says the *Carlisle Journal*, "is to be reduced from 9s. 4d. to 6s. 8d. per thousand cubic feet. This no doubt will lead to an increased consumption of gas, and we trust it will prove profitable to the lessee." — The movement for cheap and good gas is at work in Workop and Radford, where the price is 6s. 8d. and the dividend 5 per cent. A contemporary thinks the latter might easily be augmented under more liberal management as to the former.

HOUSE DRAINAGE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

IT is necessary to remind builders within the limits of the Metropolitan Commission of Sewers that, by a bye-law confirmed on the 6th inst., it is ordained, under penalties for omission,

"That fourteen days at least before beginning to dig or lay out the foundations of or for any house to be built after the confirmation of this bye-law, * * * or to rebuild any house built or to be built within the said limits, pulled down or to be pulled down to or below the floor commonly called the ground-floor, the master builder, or other person employed to build or rebuild such house (or if there be no master builder, or other person so employed, then the person for whom or by whose order such building or rebuilding is to be executed), shall give to the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers, at their principal office, No. 1, Greek-street, Soho, in the county of Middlesex, written notice thereof, together with a plan or sketch, and necessary description, showing the particulars following, that is to say, — the level or intended level (as the case may be) of the cellars or lowest floor, the fall, material, form, construction, and situation of the drains to be built, constructed, or used for the drainage of, or in connection with, such house or its appurtenances; and also the outfall or outlet of every such drain; and the size, form, situation, and construction of the privies, water-closets, and cesspools to be built, constructed, or used for the drainage of, or in connection with, such house; and no such drain, privy, water-closet, or cesspool shall be built, constructed, or used, until the particulars so required to be shown have been approved by the said commissioners, unless the said commissioners do not signify their approval, disapproval, or other directions, within fourteen days after the receipt, at the said office, of the aforesaid notice and particulars. And it is hereby further ordained, that the master builder, or other person employed to build any house in progress of erection within the limits aforesaid at the time of the making of this bye-law (or if there be no master builder or other person so employed, then the person for whom or by whose order such building is erected), and the owner of every house within the limits aforesaid (that is to say, the person receiving, or who would be entitled